UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/602,671	06/25/2003	Yukinori Noguchi	2091-0286P	1973

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EXAMINER
BAUM, RONALD

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2136	

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
06/11/2007	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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PTOL-90A (Rev. 04/07)

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *30 March 2007*.

2a)☒ This action is FINAL. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-5* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-5* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   This action is in reply to applicant's correspondence of 30 March 2007.

2.   Claims 1-5 are pending for examination.

3.   Claims 1-5 remain rejected.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the

basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kuzma, U.S.

Patent 5,771,355.

4.   As per claim 1; "An image data management apparatus comprising:

property information obtaining means for obtaining property information of

an image data set to be managed *[figures 1-6 and associated descriptions, and*

more particularly, col. 6,lines 8-63, col. 7,lines 15-47, whereas the creation of email

messages (i.e., source email client/terminal application GUI 'obtaining means') and

associated attachments (i.e., photographs, image files in various appropriate formats,

etc.,) such that creation of the email/attachments include the creation of associated

properties involved in the authorship (i.e., graphic creation applications/associated

viewers as associated with the graphic attachments), forwarding (i.e., local/destination

post office servers), security (i.e., cryptographic encryption/decryption), management,

compression parameters/protocols, storage (source and destination with associated

references versus the content alone aspects), clearly encompasses the claimed limitations

as broadly interpreted by the examiner.];

security processing method setting means for setting a security processing method for

each of items of the property information *[figures 1-6 and associated*

descriptions, and more particularly, col. 6,lines 8-63, col. 7,lines 15-47, whereas the

creation of email messages/associated attachments inclusive of associated properties

involved in the security (i.e., cryptographic security policy, encryption/decryption,

content/user signature), clearly encompasses the claimed limitations as broadly

interpreted by the examiner.];

security processing means for carrying out security processing on

each of the items of the property information according to

the security processing method that has been set *[figures 1-6 and*

associated descriptions, and more particularly, col. 6,lines 8-63, col. 7,lines 15-

47, whereas the creation of email messages/associated attachments inclusive of

associated properties involved in the security (i.e., cryptographic security policy,

encryption/decryption, content/user signature), clearly encompasses the claimed

limitations as broadly interpreted by the examiner.];

attachment means for attaching

the property information having been subjected to

the security processing to the image data set *[figures 1-6 and associated*

descriptions, and more particularly, col. 6,lines 8-63, col. 7,lines 15-47, whereas

the creation of email messages/associated attachments inclusive of associated

properties involved in the security (i.e., cryptographic security policy,

encryption/decryption, content/user signature)at the properties/content

creation/transfer/storage level, clearly encompasses the claimed limitations as

broadly interpreted by the examiner.]; and

image data storage means for storing the image data set

attached with the property information *[figures 1-6 and associated descriptions,*

whereas the creation of email messages/associated attachment(s) inclusive of associated

properties involved in the security (i.e., cryptographic security

policy/encryption/decryption) at the properties/content creation/transfer/storage level,

clearly encompasses the claimed limitations as broadly interpreted by the examiner.],

wherein said property information obtaining means includes at least one of

image analysis means for

obtaining the property information of the image data set by

analyzing the image data set and

input means for

inputting items constituting the property information,

the input means being used by a user to

input the items of the property information *[figures 1-6 and*

associated descriptions, and more particularly, col. 6,lines 8-63, col.

7,lines 15-47, whereas the creation of email messages (i.e., source email

client/terminal application GUI 'property information obtaining means')

and associated attachments (i.e., photographs, image files in various

appropriate formats, etc.,) such that creation of the email/attachments

include the creation of associated properties involved in the authorship

(i.e., graphic creation applications/associated viewers as associated with

the graphic attachments), forwarding (i.e., local/destination post office

servers), security (i.e., cryptographic encryption/decryption),

management, compression parameters/protocols, storage (source and

destination with associated references versus the content alone aspects),

clearly encompasses the claimed limitations as broadly interpreted by the

examiner.]".

5.   Claim 2 *additionally recites* the limitation that; "An image data management apparatus as

defined in claim 1, further comprising:

    attachment decision means for

        setting whether each of the items of the property information

            is attached to the image data set; and

    property information storage means for storing, in relation to the image data set,

        the item or items of the property information

            that have been set to be not attached,

    wherein the attachment means attaches only

        the remaining items of the property information that

            have been set to be attached.".

The teachings of Kuzma suggest such limitations (figures 1-6 and associated descriptions, whereas the creation of email messages/associated attachments inclusive of associated properties involved in the authorship (i.e., properties of, and content context aspects in terms of what does and does not get attached/specified) at the properties/content creation/transfer/storage level, clearly encompasses the claimed limitations as broadly interpreted by the examiner.).

6.   Claim 3 *additionally recites* the limitation that; "An image data management apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein

the security processing method that can be set by the security processing method setting means refers to

no processing,

encryption processing, or

electronic watermark processing.".

The teachings of Kuzma suggest such limitations (figures 1-6 and associated descriptions, whereas the creation of email messages/associated attachments inclusive of associated properties involved in the security (i.e., cryptographic security policy/encryption/decryption selection and parameter specifics), clearly encompasses the claimed limitations as broadly interpreted by the examiner.).

7.   Claim 4 *additionally recites* the limitation that; "An image data management apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein

the image data storage means and the property information storage means are

connected to each other via a network.".

The teachings of Kuzma suggest such limitations (figures 1-6 and associated descriptions, whereas the creation of email messages/associated attachment(s) inclusive of associated properties involved in the transfer/storage (inherent internal node cache/buffer and application specific storage as files, etc.,) at the properties/content creation/transfer/storage level as concerned with the associated information/files references (i.e., URLs, reference pointers, etc.,) so transferred across the network at a LAN, WAN Internet, etc., level, clearly encompasses the claimed limitations as broadly interpreted by the examiner.).

8.   Claim 5 *additionally recites* the limitation that; "An image data management apparatus as defined in any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein

   the property information includes

      an item representing a parameter of image processing

         to be carried out on the image data set.".

The teachings of Kuzma suggest such limitations (figures 1-6 and associated descriptions, whereas the creation of email messages/associated attachments inclusive of associated properties involved in the authorship (i.e., properties of, and content context aspects in terms of what does and does not get attached/specified) at the properties/content creation/transfer/storage level, and rendering aspects (i.e., MPEG, JPEG, file characteristics/parameters, linked image object URLs, compression, etc.,), clearly encompasses the claimed limitations as broadly interpreted by the examiner.).

Response to Amendment

9.   As per applicant's argument concerning the lack of teaching by Kuzma of image

properties input and subjected to security processing, the examiner has fully considered in this

response to amendment; the arguments, and finds them not to be persuasive.

At the very least, the email and associated graphic attachment(s), routing information

(i.e., also inclusive of security aspects such as encryption requests, compression,

content/email/attachment signature) creation on a user interface of a computer terminal (i.e.,

GUI), clearly encompassing the 'input by a user and subjected to security processing ... (i.e., col.

6,lines 8-63, col. 7,lines 15-47)' aspects of the claim, as broadly interpreted by the examiner, as

per the claim language, and would therefore be applicable in the rejection, such that the rejection

support references collectively encompass the said claim limitations in their entirety.

10.   **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time

policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE

MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO

MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after

the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period

will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 .

CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing

date of this final action.

Conclusion

11.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from examiner

should be directed to Ronald Baum, whose telephone number is (571) 272-3861, and whose

unofficial Fax number is (571) 273-3861 and unofficial email is Ronald.baum@uspto.gov. The

examiner can normally be reached Monday through Thursday from 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Nasser Moazzami, can be reached at (571) 272-4195. The Fax number for the

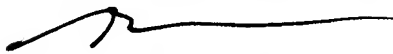organization where this application is assigned is **571-273-8300**.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. For more information for

unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the

PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private

PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Ronald Baum

NASSER MOAZZAMI   Patent Examiner
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6/5/07